

PCN requirements and entitlements for Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme (ARRS)

Advanced Practitioners - May 2023

Frequently Asked Questions

- **What is advanced practice?**

Advanced practice is delivered by experienced, registered health and care practitioners and is characterised by a high degree of autonomy and complex decision making. This area of practice is underpinned by a master's level award or equivalent that encompasses the four pillars of clinical practice, leadership and management, education, and research, with the demonstration of core capabilities for specific pillars.

In England advanced practice training and education is overseen by the Centre for Advancing Practice and its 7 regional faculties, which are all part of the NHS England Workforce, Training and Education directorate (NHSE WT&E).

First Contact Practitioner training (section B15.4)

- **What is the NHSE WT&E recognised training route to advanced practice?**

The training route recognised by NHSE WT&E is to complete a 3-year (part-time) MSc Advanced Practice programme offered by a university in England in conjunction with work-based learning. Many universities in England offer MSc Advanced Practice programmes which have engaged in being accredited by the Centre for Advancing Practice. For a full list of currently accredited programmes visit the Centre for Advancing Practice [programme accreditation](#) webpage.

From April 2023 PCNs are able to claim reimbursement for the time any Allied Health Professional First Contact Practitioners (FCPs), reimbursed through the ARRS scheme, spend training to become an advanced practitioner.

- **How do I enrol on an advanced practice programme?**

Funded applications need to be supported by employers who must ensure progression to an identified advanced practitioner role on completion of training, meeting the minimum requirements for supervision of advanced practitioner trainees, and engagement with the guidance noted in the advanced practice [Governance Maturity Matrix](#) of the Centre for Advancing Practice. Organisations should discuss with their respective training hub advanced practice leads and regional faculties for advancing practice their plans for implementing progression from FCP roles to

trainee advanced practitioner roles; thereby ensuring they understand the funding options available, required governance and time frames for regional funding applications. Organisations should have an equitable recruitment process for interested FCPs to be given the opportunity to move into a trainee advanced practitioner role. Prospective trainee advanced practitioners will also need to meet the entry criteria of the university they are planning to apply to.

- **Does this mean that the training course is funded, or just the salary paid? If the latter, where can I access funding for the course?**

Funding for advanced practice training is available through NHSE WT&E regional faculties for advancing practice. Organisations / practices who wish to access the funding should in the first instance liaise with their advanced practice lead or education and training lead within their primary care training hub, who in turn will submit training demand to their respective Regional Faculty for Advancing Practice. Each regional faculty have their own funding processes and application criteria, for specific regional information please refer to a regional faculty's advancing practice [website](#).

- **The additional roles reimbursement scheme now provides funding for the salaries of FCP staff training for advanced practitioner roles, including the time they spend out of practice attending an MSc advanced practice programme. Is there any limit to the amount of time someone can spend out of practice?**

There is no nationally set limit on the amount of time someone can spend out of practice. However, some programmes include minimum requirements for the proportion of 'off-the-job' training, such as apprenticeships [which is 20% off-the-job training](#) calculated according to an employee's contracted employment hours across their whole training programme – this is usually equivalent to around one day per working week.

- **Is the reimbursement for the salaries of staff training to become advanced practitioners focused on FCPs?**

Under the current ARRs reimbursement scheme, time spent on training is focused on FCPs from an allied health professional background training to become advanced practitioners. It does not cover nursing staff training to become advanced practitioners as general practice nurses are not currently included in the scheme.

Advanced Practitioner Nurses (section B15.2.d)

- **Can I claim reimbursement for nurses working in advanced practitioner roles?**

Yes, if they have either graduated from a Centre for Advancing Practice accredited MSc advanced practice programme or completed the Centre's ePortfolio (supported) Route. For a full list of accredited programmes visit the Centre for Advancing Practice [programme accreditation](#) webpage. Information regarding the ePortfolio (supported) Route can be found [here](#).

- **Don't these criteria disregard the skills and experience of existing nurses working in advanced practitioner roles?**

Existing nurses working in advanced practitioner roles can apply for recognition of the quality assurance of their advanced practice education and training equivalence via the Centre's ePortfolio (supported) Route. Further information regarding the eligibility criteria and application process for the ePortfolio (supported) Route can be found on the [Centre for Advancing Practice website](#).

- **How do I apply for a MSc Advanced Practice programme offered at a university?**

Applications are via the university's website, once employer support and funding from the respective Regional Faculty for Advancing Practice has been agreed.

- **How long do the programmes take / when can I expect my nurse working in an advanced practitioner role to become eligible for reimbursement?**

A MSc advanced practice programme is taken as a 3-year part-time Master's programme, this 3-year time length can sometimes be reduced if relevant prior learning has been attained which can be recognised by universities such as V300 prescribing or health assessment. The Centre's 'Advanced' digital badge can be claimed on successful completion of a Centre accredited MSc Advanced Practice programme. The ePortfolio (supported) Route usually takes 12-months to complete and on successful completion applicants are able to claim their 'Advanced' digital badge.

- **What if that takes them beyond 2023/24?**

Staff employed through the scheme will be supported beyond 2024.

- **Can I claim reimbursement through the additional roles scheme for nursing staff training to become advanced practitioners or for those nurses applying for their advanced practice education and training equivalence to be recognised?**

No. Under the current reimbursement scheme you can only claim for nurses in advanced practitioner roles once they have graduated from a Centre for Advancing Practice accredited MSc advanced practice programme, or if their advanced practice education and training equivalence has been recognised through the Centre's ePortfolio (supported) Route. In both instances those training and recognition pathways lead to eligibility for claiming the Centre's 'Advanced' digital badge, acknowledging the quality assurance of educational and experiential preparation as an advanced practitioner.

- **Are the Centre's 'Advanced' digital badges only relevant to nurses working in advanced practitioner roles?**

Whilst the 23-24 iteration of ARRS specifically provides reimbursement for nurses working in advanced practitioner roles who hold the Centre's 'Advanced' digital badge, the badge itself has a multi-professional applicability and can be utilised by all advanced practitioners from nursing, allied health, or pharmacy registrant backgrounds. It is intended for those individuals who have either graduated from a Centre accredited MSc advanced practice programme, or are existing, experienced advanced practitioners who have completed the Centre's ePortfolio (supported) Route. The Centre's 'Advanced' digital badge offers standardised recognition of the quality assurance of the education, training and learning experience of advanced practitioners in the workforce.